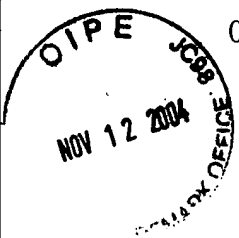


IFW



01272.020597

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: B. Mouttet
YOSHITO MIZOGUCHI, ET AL.)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 2853
Appln. No.: 10/619,212)	
	:	
Filed: July 15, 2003)	
	:	
For: INK JET PRINTING APPARATUS)	
AND RECOVERY TREATMENT	:	
METHOD THEREOF)	November 12, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed October 22, 2004.

The Examiner has stated that the inventions of Group I (Claims 1-14) and Group II (Claims 15-21) are patentably distinct from each other for being related as subcombination and combination. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the two groups of claims are closely related and that a proper search of any of the claims of one group would likely include a search of the claims of the other group. Thus, it is submitted that all of the claims can be searched simultaneously and that a duplicative search with

possibly inconsistent results may occur if the restriction requirement is maintained.

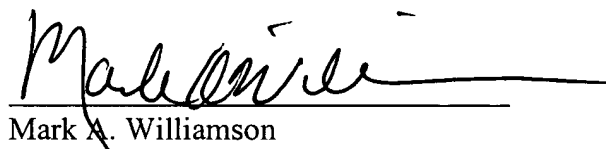
Therefore, in the interest of economy, both for the Office and Applicants, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully solicited.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group I, namely Claims 1-14.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", is written over a horizontal line.

Mark A. Williamson
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